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STATISTICAL SUMMARY

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS, U. S. D. A.

SS-7

MAY 31, 1943

CROPS

May 1 indicated 1943 *winter wheat* production 515 million bushels, the smallest since 1935, about 27 percent less than the 1942 crop and 6 percent below the 10-year average (1932-41). Acreage remaining for harvest, 33.3 million, is 7 percent less than last year. Prospective abandonment from all causes estimated at 11 percent, against 20.6 percent for 10-year average. Indicated yield on May 1 was 15.5 bushels per harvested acre, compared with 19.7 last year and average of 14.3.

Rye estimate May 1, 36.8 million bushels. Expected yield 11.7 bushels per acre on 3.1 million acres remaining for harvest. Indicated crop much below 1942 and slightly below average.

Forecast of *oats* crop in the Southern States higher than a year ago but below average. May 1 condition 63 percent compared with 58 years ago and 69 percent average.

Stocks of hay on farms May 1 estimated 13.4 million tons, roughly 2 million tons more than year previous and largest stocks of hay for the date since 1939. Ten-year average May 1 stocks 10.5 million tons.

Citrus fruit prospect increased as season has progressed. May 1 estimate of Valencia oranges (which make up a little over half the total crop) about 6 percent above April estimate. Grapefruit harvest—which is about finished—around 4 percent higher than estimated in April. May lemon report in California also raised 2.6 percent over April forecast.

Condition of early Irish *potato* crop in 10 Southern States and California 78 percent on May 1, same as last year but 2 points above average. Harvest of North Florida potato crop delayed about three weeks by freezes.

Maple sugar crop 17 percent below last year, sirup production 10 percent below. About 7 percent fewer maple trees were tapped this spring than last. Season was longer than usual but flow of sap hindered by severe cold. Production per tree somewhat lower than last year but about 25 percent above the 10-year average (1932-41).

DAIRY

April *milk* production, about 10½ billion pounds, fell 60 million or nearly

1 percent below April last year—second month since January 1940 that production has failed to exceed same month in previous year. More cows offset by decreased production per cow. Latter averaged 16.12 pounds May 1 against 16.67 pounds per cow a year previous. Late spring, late pastures, shortage of high protein feed and skilled labor have discouraged hopes for a record milk production in 1943.

Pastures late but in fair average condition. May 1 pasture condition for whole country averaged 78 percent of normal, lower than last two years but somewhat above 10-year average figure of 74 for May 1.

WFA on May 1 increased percentage of butter to be held for Government purchase from 30 up to 50 percent and of Cheddar cheese from 50 to 70 percent; new percentages to apply during May, June and July.

Creamery butter production expected to reach seasonal peak of about 200 million pounds in June, then decline to seasonal low of a little over 100 million in November, with total for year around 1,800 million pounds—about the same as the past five year average. Civilian supply of butter in 1943 expected to be about 85 percent of normal. Government requirements the next 12 months expected to be roughly 500 million pounds, about two-thirds of this for our armed forces and one-third to our Allies.

Cheddar cheese output expected to be around 800 million pounds for the year. Civilian supply, per capita, expected to be about 75 percent of normal.

PARITY PRICES FOR FARM PRODUCTS AND ACTUAL PRICES RECEIVED¹

COMMODITY AND UNIT	ACTUAL PRICE		PARITY PRICE
	APR. 15 1943	MAY 15 1943	MAY 15 1943
Cotton, lb. ct.	20.13	20.09	20.21
Wheat, bu. ct.	122.3	122.8	144.1
Corn, bu. ct.	100.2	103.4	104.6
Oats, bu. ct.	61.1	61.2	65.0
Potatoes, bu. ct.	166.8	190.7	118.4
Cattle, 100 lb. dol.	13.03	12.91	8.83
Calves, 100 lb. dol.	14.25	14.30	11.00
Hogs, 100 lb. dol.	14.35	13.90	11.85
Lambs, 100 lb. dol.	13.88	13.83	9.58
Eggs, doz. ct.	33.7	34.2	28.7
Chickens, live, lb. ct.	24.6	24.7	18.6
Butterfat, lb. ct.	51.3	50.6	40.6
Milk, wholesale, 100 lb. . . dol.	3.04	3.01	2.35

¹Prices are shown for only those commodities except cotton for which 5 percent or more of annual sales are made by farmers during May. ²Adjusted for seasonal variation.

LIVESTOCK

Number of *hogs* slaughtered under Federal inspection, during April, about 4.5 million head, 6 percent more than a year ago and largest April slaughter on record. Inspected slaughter for seven months October-April (the marketing season for the spring pig crop) totaled 34.9 million head. This was nearly 2.4 million head or 7 percent above like period a year earlier. Average live weight of butcher hogs at important Corn Belt markets in early May was 253 pounds, 16 pounds heavier than a year ago and nearly 20 pounds above 1936-42 average weight for the month.

Stocks of pork in storage May 1 were 522 million pounds, about 50 million pounds under a year earlier and 115 million pounds below 1931-40 May 1 average. Stocks of lard, including rendered pork fat, May 1, totaled 148 million pounds, about 20 million above a year earlier but about average for date.

U.S.D.A. purchase of pork (chiefly for lend-lease) in first quarter of 1943 totaled roughly 550 million pounds, dressed weight, compared with 320 million pounds bought in the same period last year. Purchases were equivalent to about 25 percent of all pork produced under Federal inspection - like period last year 17 percent.

Number of *cattle* slaughtered under Federal inspection during April was 796,000 head, 14 percent under March and 17 percent under April a year ago. Presumably some diversion of live cattle from federally inspected plants.

January-April inspected slaughter of cattle 9 percent under like period a year ago but 19 percent greater than 1932-41 average for the period. Live weights of cattle slaughtered during March averaged 980 pounds, 10 pounds heavier than a year earlier and about 40 pounds above average weight in preceding 10 years.

Inspected calf slaughter during April was 365,000 head, 27 percent under a year earlier and smallest April slaughter since 1922. January-April calf slaughter 21 percent below a year ago and 19 percent under average - believed to reflect black market operations.

POULTRY AND EGGS

During April hens layed 6,727 million eggs, 12 percent more than previous April peak and 36 percent above 10-year average, 1932-41. Total egg output first four months this year 15 percent higher than the previous record in like months of 1942. Number of layers on farms, during April, 394 million, a peak for the month, 15 percent over last year and 31 percent above average.

Number of chicks and young chicks of this year's hatchings on farms May 1 were 470 million, compared with 419 million a year ago, an increase of 12 percent. Number of chicks largest on record, 38 percent above 10-year average.

Poultry stocks in storage May 1 lowest since 1918. Storage stock of shell eggs May 1 was 34 percent larger than a year ago.

During the first four months of 1943, commercial hatcheries produced 769 million chicks, compared with 682 million in like period of 1942. Presumably a large number of these chicks will be sold as broilers.

Turkey hatchings in April indicated as about 2 percent below year ago.

FATS AND OILS

Linseed oil accounted for 85 percent of total quantity of fats and oils used in the drying industries in 1942, linseed being abundant whereas quick-drying oils were in short supply; this was the highest percentage of linseed used in these industries in the 12 years of record. Now seems likely that total output of fats and oils from domestic materials will not exceed 10.8 billion pounds in 1942-43 crop year. This would be about 1 billion over previous year.

FARM LABOR

Total number of persons employed on farms May 1 was 10,492,000. This was a decrease of 304,000 or about 3

percent from year previous but an increase of 1,184,000 over April 1. Number of hired workers on farms normally increases in the spring. Employment of both family and hired workers decreased from a year earlier, number hired workers down much more than family workers. Number hired workers on farms May 1 was 2,244,000 or 153,000 less than year ago; number of family workers May 1 was 8,248,000, a decline of 151,000 from year previous. Number of farm workers May 1 this year smallest on record for the date - a situation that has occurred repeatedly since farm employment reached an all-time low in January this year.

FARM INCOME

Cash income from farm marketings during April estimated at 1,284 million dollars, compared with a revised estimate of 1,310 million dollars in March and

982 million dollars in April 1942. The slight decline in income between March and April was largely due to smaller sums realized from meat animals, cotton and cottonseed, feed grains and hay.

Government payments in April amounted to 65 million dollars, compared with 92 million dollars in March and 81 million dollars in April last year. Total income for the four months January-April, 4,981 million dollars (5,344 million dollars including Government payments) compared with 3,721 million dollars in like period last year (4,073 million dollars including Government payments).

For more detailed information, write the Division of Economic Information, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., or telephone Republic 4142 - Branch 4407.

CURRENT INDEXES FOR AGRICULTURE

INDEX NUMBERS	BASE PERIOD	MAY 1943
Prices received by farmers . .	1910-14 = 100	187
Prices paid by farmers, interest and taxes	1910-14 = 100	163
Parity ratio		115
Wholesale prices of food . . .	1910-14 = 100	171
Retail prices of food	1910-14 = 100	177
Farm wage rates	1910-14 = 100	239
Weekly factory earnings . . .	1910-14 = 100	237
RATIOS	LONG-TIME MAY AVERAGE	MAY 1943
Hog-corn ratio, U. S.	11.1	13.4
Butterfat-feed ratio, U. S. . .	22.7	24.9
Milk-feed ratio, U. S.	1.10	1.30
Egg-feed ratio, U. S.	13.7	16.8
PRODUCTION COMPARISONS	JAN.-APR. 1942	JAN.-APR. 1943
Milk, (Mil. lb.)	36,984	37,157
Eggs, (Mil.)	18,736	21,535
Beef, ³ Dr. wt., mil. lb.) . . .	2,043	1,876
Pork and lard ³ (Dr. wt., mil. lb.)	3,217	3,609
All meats, ³ (Dr. wt., mil. lb.)	5,719	5,887

¹March figure. ²Factory payroll per employed worker adjusted for seasonal variation. April figure. ³Federally inspected slaughter.